

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 /095 W
-----015857 241229Z /11

R 231630Z FEB 78 ZDK
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPACREP GUAM
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00630

DEPT FOR INTERIOR (OMSN AND OTA)

CINCPACREP FOR HICOM AND STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNTC, UNGA, UNSC, TQ, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET STATEMENT ON TRUST TERRITORY OF THE
PACIFIC ISLANDS (TT)

REF: A. MICROCONGRESS P110522Z; B. USUN 560

1. SUMMARY: A SOVIET STATEMENT CIRCULATED AS BOTH A
GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) AND SECURITY COUNCIL (SC) DOCUMENT
REPEATS SOVIET CRITICISM OF THE US ADMINISTRATION OF THE
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (TT), INTER ALIA:
LACK OF RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, TRANSFORMATION OF THE
TT INTO A US POSSESSION, US ATTEMPTS TO PARTITION THE TT.
IT CONCLUDES THAT ANY ALTERATION IN STATUS SHOULD BE MADE
ONLY BY A SC DECISION. WE SPECULATE THAT THE STATEMENT,
WHICH BREAKS NO NEW GROUND, IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE
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SOVIETS AGAINST POSSIBLE CRITICISM FOR NOT TAKING FORMAL
ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT COM REQUEST FOR SC
SUPERVISION OF THE UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM.
USUN BELIEVES THAT A US REPLY TO THE SOVIET STATEMENT IS
WARRANTED. END SUMMARY.

2. UN HAS CIRCULATED AS JOINT GA/SC DOCUMENT (A/33/59 AND

S/12569 - TEXT POUCHED TO DEPT, SCHIELE - IO/UNP) A SOVIET
STATEMENT ON THE TT WHICH STATES INTER ALIA THAT:

-- THE SOVIETS AT THE 31ST AND 32ND GA'S AND THE
TC DREW ATTENTION TO THE "ABNORMAL" SITUATION IN THE TT
WHERE THE POPULATION HAS BEEN UNABLE TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHT
OF SELF-DETERMINATION;

-- THE US IS TRANSFORMING THE TT INTO A US
POSSESSION, THUS (SIC) VIOLATING THE PRINCIPLE THAT
IT SHOULD BE TREATED AS A SINGLE ENTITY AND SEEKING TO
PARTITION IT;

-- THE STEP TAKEN ON JANUARY 9, 1978 IN THE
MARIANA ISLANDS LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT THE US AIM IS TO
TRANSFORM "THIS TERRITORY" INTO A US POSSESSION;

-- THE US IS TAKING SIMILAR MEASURES IN THE
CAROLINES AND MARSHALLS WHICH ARE BEING GIVEN THE STATUS
OF TERRITORIES "ASSOCIATED" WITH THE US, IN EFFECT PER-
PETUATING THEIR SUBORDINATE STATUS;

-- ANY MEASURES TAKEN WHICH WOULD MEAN THE
ANNEXATION OF THE TT ARE CONTRARY TO THE CHARTER, THE
TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, GA RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) AND
"ELEMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS";
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-- ARTICLE 83 OF THE UN CHARTER ESTABLISHES THAT
ANY ALTERATION IN TT STATUS "SHOULD BE MADE ONLY BY A
DECISION OF THE SC AND, CONSEQUENTLY, CANNOT BE MADE BY
THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, WHOSE UNILATERAL ACTION ON
THIS MATTER SHOULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED AS LAWFUL."

3. COMMENT: THE STATEMENT IS ALONG THE LINES OF SOVIET
STATEMENTS AT THE 31ST AND 32ND GA'S AND AT RECENT
SESSIONS OF THE TC; ITS CONTENT BREAKS NO NEW GROUND.
HOWEVER, IT IS THE FIRST SC DOCUMENT DEALING WITH THE
TT -- OTHER THAN THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TC -- SINCE
1949, WHEN THE SC DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TT TO
THE TC. THE STATEMENT RAISES A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS:
WHY DID THE SOVIETS CIRCULATE IT AT THIS TIME? WHAT ARE
ITS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES? SHOULD THE US REPLY?
CONCERNING THE PURPOSE OF THE STATEMENT, WE SPECULATE THAT
IT IS DESIGNED TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE CRITICISM OF THE
SOVIETS FOR NOT TAKING "FORMAL" ACTION (AS SC PRESIDENT)
IN RESPONSE TO THE COM REQUEST TO THE SC FOR SC SUPER-
VISION OF THE UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM (REF A).
(AS REPORTED IN REF B, SOVIET PERMREP TROYANOVSKY GAVE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INFORMAL CIRCULATION OF THE COM REQUEST.)
REITERATION OF CRITICAL SOVIET VIEWS MAY BE AN EFFORT TO
MAINTAIN SOVIET DECOLONIZATION CREDIBILITY AND TO FORESTALL
ANY SPECULATION THAT IT HAS RESPONDED TO US ENTREATIES TO
SOFT-PEDDLE THE COM REQUEST.

4. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH SPECULATION BY TC PRESIDENT BYATT
(UK) THAT CIRCULATION OF THE SOVIET STATEMENT AS AN SC
DOCUMENT IS DESIGNED TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR MORE ACTIVE
SC CONSIDERATION OF THE TT; THE SOVIETS CAN ACHIEVE THAT
WHenever THEY WANT TO AND DON'T NEED TO LAY ANY GROUNDWORK.
CIRCULATION OF THE STATEMENT AND INFORMAL CIRCULATION OF
THE COM REQUEST (WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN CIRCULATED TO OUR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00630

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KNOWLEDGE) MAY INVITE SIMILAR STATEMENTS FROM OTHERS,
ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS UNLIKELY IN LIGHT OF THE GENERALLY LOW
LEVEL OF INTEREST CURRENTLY SHOWN WITH REGARD TO THE TT.

5. IN A CALL ON AMB LEONARD ON FEB 22, SOVIET DEPUTY
PERMREP FOKINE INFORMED LEONARD THAT CIRCULATION OF THE
SOVIET STATEMENT (WHICH ALSO APPEARED AS PRESS RELEASE)
WAS ON EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW, WHERE IT WAS
DRAFTED. FOKINE'S COMMENT WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF A

DISCUSSION OF THE SC CONSIDERATION OF AFRICAN QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE HORN AND THE CHADIAN COMPLAINT (REPORTED SEPARATELY). NOT MAKING CLEAR WHAT HE WAS REFERRING TO, FOKINE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WITHIN 10 YEARS, "THESE LAST COLONIAL REMNANTS WOULD BE GONE." IN RESPONSE TO LEONARD'S COMMENT THAT CIRCULATION OF THE SOVIET STATEMENT WAS INAPPROPRIATE, FOKINE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD

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ALWAYS VIEWED THE SC AS THE LAST RESORT ON THE TT.

6. BECAUSE OF THE FORMAL CIRCULATION OF THE SOVIET STATEMENT, THE PROCEDURAL IMPROPRIETY OF ITS CIRCULATION AS GA DOCUMENT, AND THE UNDESIRABILITY OF LETTING ITS ALLEGATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS STAND UNCHALLENGED, WE BELIEVE A REPLY IS WARRANTED. WE WOULD RECOMMEND A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE TC TO BE CIRCULATED AS A TC DOCUMENT, WHICH COULD INCLUDE BOTH A COMMENT ON THE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION AS WELL AS REBUTTAL OF THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE STATEMENT.

7. ON FEB 23 WE RECEIVED AN INFORMAL LETTER FROM THE SC PRESIDENT TRANSMITTING COPIES OF THE COM REQUEST TO ALL SC MEMBERS. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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TAGS: PORG, PGOV, TQ, UR, US, UNTC, UNGA, UNSC
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